

NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

For Such a Time as This

¹² When they told Mordecai what Esther had said,

¹³ Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews.

¹⁴ For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this." -Esther 4:12-14

Does your life have a purpose? Is it possible that God has placed you in the particular place you live at this particular time in history to do a particularly faithful thing that will make a Christian difference in the lives of many people?

I would challenge you to prayerfully consider how you would answer both of the above questions. They are the very questions that Esther was forced to consider as a crisis arose that threatened to annihilate her people. As we continue our sermon series on Esther, we have a jealous king, a campaign to scapegoat innocent immigrants, and a government run by self-promoters who are out of touch with their own population. All of this confronts a young woman who finds herself caught in an impossible situation she had no part in creating. It is a world much like our own, in which the politics of 'us against them' are driven by sexism, ethnocentrism, and nationalism. Indeed, the world of Esther is a world of chance and insecurity in which nothing seems certain. And in this world, as in our own, the question that keeps pressing in is, "Where is God in all of this?"

In the wake of all of this, Esther's father-figure, Mordecai, challenges her to consider whether God has positioned her to be the queen for such a time as this. Esther is faced with the choice to either live her life in fear or to act boldly and courageously to save the lives of her people even though it may lead to her death. On Sunday I hope you will worship with us at 8:30 or 10:50 as we continue this meaningful and interesting sermon series on Esther and observe Independence Day.

I want to thank each of you who provided food for the breakfast we hosted for the Mission Group from Texas on the day they were leaving. Almost every one of the adults and youth I visited with expressed their gratitude to me for our church's hospitality to the 100 youth and adults who stayed with us and did mission work in our community. The whole week embodied the connectional nature of the United Methodist Church and the way our churches can accomplish more together than any of us could on our own.

I want to invite you to prayerfully consider participating in our third Mission Madness on Saturday, July 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A group of youth and adults from our church will be painting the Neighborhood Market and doing some work on the Bear Cave Clothing Closet at John Marshall High School. Our elementary students will be serving at Cleats for Kids, and our youngest children will do some missional activities at our church. We will also have opportunities for our children to grow closer to God and have fun together. I hope you will plan to serve with us as we make a Christian difference in our community. It is amazing how God can use us to bless our community when we work together. Have a great week, and I will see you on Sunday.

Blessings,
Trevor

Ministry Calendar

Sunday, July 2

Worship at 8:30

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Worship at 10:50 a.m.

Monday, July 3

Women's A.A. Group, 5:30 p.m.

Monday, July 10

Care Committee at 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 12

Newsletter Folding at 10:00 a.m.

Young Adult Alpha Course at 6:30

Monday, July 17

to Wednesday, July 19

Growing in Grace Church Camp for 3rd to 5th Graders

Saturday, July 22

to Sunday, July 23

Sonshine Church Camp for 1st and 2nd Graders

Saturday, July 29

Mission Madness at 9:00 a.m.

Kiva Baby

This is Mark Michael's first appearance in the Kiva Sunday School Class. He is nicknamed the "Kiva Baby." His proud parents are Medhat and Angela Michael. Congratulations, Medhat and Angela! He is adorable!



Nichols Hills U.M.C.

(405)842-1486

(405)843-1835 Fax

www.nicholshillsumc.org



Ministry Opportunities

Hospitality Greeters

Are you enthusiastic about our church? If so, this is an opportunity you might enjoy. Please see Alfred Walker for more details.

Newsletter Folders Needed

Every other Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room.

Coffee Hosts

Coffee hosts provide 4-5 dozen cookies. At the close of the 10:50 Service, the host(s) stand by the cookie table in the Narthex and greet people. To serve, sign-up on the bulletin board outside the office.

Serving In Ministry on Sunday, July 2

The mission candle is lit by General Bowden in honor of Samantha Trammell, granddaughter upon her graduation from Oklahoma State University.

The chancel flowers are given in honor of Pam Shdeed's birthday by Bill Shdeed.

The acolyte for 8:30 is Gabriel Ireland.

The acolytes for 10:50 are Sarah Tirrell and Louis Fraley.

Serving In Ministry on Sunday, July 9

The chancel flowers are given by Joe McClendon in memory of his wife, Carole.

The acolyte for 8:30 is Gabriel Ireland.

The acolytes for 10:50 are Avery Smith and Graham Fraley.

Chancel Flower Delivery

We are in need of people to deliver the chancel flowers to homebound members. If this opportunity is for you, please sign-up on the bulletin board outside of the office.

Altar Guild

The sacrament of communion is a meaningful and important part of our weekly worship. If you are interested in helping prepare the table, please contact Carol Magness at 405-640-4429 or Janet Jones at 405-627-1566. Serving in Altar Guild this month are: Mary Ann Carmichael, Anne Holbrook, Janet Jones, and Carol Magness.

Esther

The story of Esther contains all the elements of a popular romance novel: a young and beautiful heroine; a wicked, scheming villain; a wise and older father figure; and a bumbling king. It is a story of palace intrigue and the threat of genocide, and although it is the only book in the

Bible that doesn't mention God's name, God's presence is evident through the faith of Esther, an orphan girl who became a queen for such a time as this.

Join us for worship at 8:30 or 10:50 a.m. at Nichols Hills United Methodist Church for Esther, a story where good triumphs, evil is destroyed, and all ends happily.

July 2	<i>For Such a Time as This</i>
July 9	<i>Defining Moments</i>
July 16	<i>Tables Turned</i>



Tausha
Davison-Beverly,
Director of Children
and Family Ministry

Children's Ministry

Greetings everyone! This month our sermon series is on Esther. This past Sunday we discussed the back story of Esther and the events that led up to her becoming queen. Esther is a story that everyone loves!

Just in case you may be wondering who the inspiration was for this sermon series, it was our very own Miss Ella Wayne. Ella is four years old, and a very eager Bible scholar. She shared with Allyson Smith and me that she really loves the story of Esther. As she spoke, she explained that she has many other Bible stories that she would like to share.

Thank you, Ella, for your inspiration to share God's Word with others! And thank you to her parents for sharing the light of God in their home.

Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your father who is in heaven. -Matthew 5:16

Sincerely,
Tausha Davison-Beverly



Rev. Matt Patrick

Thank You To Our Youth!

On Father's Day, we gave out delicious cookies to our men to honor them for their role in our lives as Christians and in families. It was a great treat and a wonderful morning. I wanted to use my article this week to thank Gracie Sanders and Meg Miller for baking all of the cookies that you all enjoyed last week. They are accomplished bakers, especially for their age and I'm quite proud of them. If you see Gracie or Meg in the halls of the church, make sure that you thank them! Our church thrives when we are continually developing the next generation to be true disciples of Jesus Christ.

Blessings,
Matt





Wonderful Letter

We received a wonderful letter from a mother of one of our former chancel choir students. We have included it below.

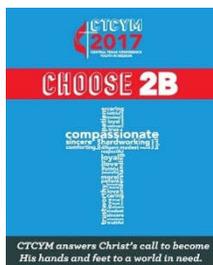
Dear members of NHUMC:

I wanted to thank you for what you have meant to my son, Benjamin Allen, for the past three years. While he pursued his degree at OCU, you allowed him to help lead in worship with the choir. In addition, you loved and encouraged him while he was away from home. Thank you so much for truly ministering to him, and by extension, me. It was such a comfort to know he was in church every week!

With grateful appreciation,
Barbara Allen”

Thank you!

The Central Texas Conference Youth In Mission team would like to thank you for your hospitality! Below are photos from a few of the work sites that the team helped with.



Tidbits from The Learning Center



Denise Buthion,
Director

Summer arrived with perfect timing for our summer campers. We've had our second field trip of the month to the Oklahoma City Zoo. Two weeks before this trip our children attended the Elevation Trampoline Park in Edmond. There were 16 children and four chaperones who braved the 90 plus temperature at the zoo. A picnic lunch outdoors is what summer is all about! We limit the number of field trips that are outdoors due to the extreme heat.

We want to thank the Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministry (CJAMM) group at the United Methodist Conference Office for loaning us their 15 passenger van. It makes our

travel experience much more efficient to have the twelve children and their car seats together. One of the highlights of field trips is traveling on the van!

Our children, families and staff enjoy our summer program. It's already half way over!

-Denise



John Marshall Neighborhood Market and Clothing Closet

We are out for Summer but will return in August!

Cares and Concerns Epworth Villa

Joanne Crosby and Sylvia Miller
Town Village
Joanna Garnett

The Fountains at Canterbury

Anita Dahlgren
Autumn Leaves

Katie Alexander

At Home

Roger Etling, Ann Flesher,
Jess and Bette Harris, Frances Lewis,
David Mueller, and Maxine Permenter

Manage Your Giving Online And Use Our QR Code



Nichols Hills United Methodist Church is excited to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Visit the church website at www.nicholshillsumc.org. Click on the blue *Make A Donation* button. Then follow the online instructions.

We also have a QR Code that you can scan with your cell phone to donate. If you have questions, please contact Louise Glass at the church; 405-842-1486.

Birthdays

- 07/01 Carla Hill
- 07/03 Tom Klos
- 07/03 Chris Lansden
- 07/04 Will Malone
- 07/04 Pam Shdeed
- 07/06 Ronald Elkins
- 07/07 Sue Goodman
- 07/07 Jane Harlow
- 07/07 Allyson Smith
- 07/09 Melita James
- 07/09 James Meyerson
- 07/09 Gladys Miskovsky
- 07/09 Michael Palmer
- 07/10 Nathaneal Crownover
- 07/14 Bret Davis
- 07/14 Steve Dickey
- 07/15 David Brown
- 07/17 Margaret Wells
- 07/20 Owen Lafferty
- 07/21 Stuart Hunt, Jr.

If your birthday isn't included in our list, please contact the church office (405-842-1486) to be added.

Nichols Hills United Methodist Church
1212 Bedford Drive
Oklahoma City, Ok. 73116

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Sunday School Classes - Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

The Brew Class: *Meets in the Room 131* - Bring your coffee and join "The Brew" as we gather for fellowship and for an Andy Stanley study called *Christian: It's Not What You Think*. For more information about "The Brew" contact Tim Baker (405) 209-5467 or Christie Baker (405) 922-5154.

KIVA Class: *Meets in the Parlor* - Join us as we learn from different speakers on how we can be a Christian influence in the world.
Leaders: Mike and Pama Palmer.

Reveille Class: *Meets in the Library* - Do you like to see how your faith impacts your everyday life? Join us for a discussion of how the Bible speaks to the current events in our lives. Teacher: Tom Fraley.

Open Circle Class: *Meets in the Archives Room* - In addition to our Lectionary scripture study approach, we will be studying selected lessons from the 29 lesson "Bible Study Fellowship on Revelations." We have members of the Open Circle Class, who either had lessons on Revelations or completed these 29 lesson plans. If we get into a "bind" on this study, we will contact Dr. Smith or Matt to resolve it. Our first lesson last week covered the first three lesson plans. Teacher: John Marshall.

The Bible Class: *Meets in the Conference Room*. - On July 2 the Bible Class will study Exodus 3, Moses and the Burning Bush, to recognize God's presence as we partner with God to correct injustice. On July 9 we will study Isaiah 6, Isaiah in the Temple, to realize that unexpected circumstances can lead us into new opportunities to serve God. Please join the Bible Class for insightful discussions.

Youth Class: *Meets in the Youth Basement* - Join us for fun, fellowship, and a lesson that will bring you closer to God.
Leaders: Rev. Matt Patrick and Matt Eales.

Second Graders through Fifth Graders: *Meets in Room 124*. Join us for a fun time with your friends as we grow closer to God and each other.
Director of Children's Ministry: Tausha Davison-Beverly.

Children's Class: *Meets in the Children's Area*. - Join us for a child-friendly lesson, snacks, and crafts as we learn about the Bible together.
Director of Children's Ministry: Tausha Davison-Beverly.

Dr. Trevor Smith, Senior Pastor

Rev. Matt Patrick, Student Pastor

Michael Wylder, Director of Church Music

Tausha Davison-Beverly, Director of Children and Family Ministry

Delaney Sheffield, Administrative Assistant

Dr. Antone Godding, Organist

Kathy Smith, Treasurer

Louise Glass, Financial Secretary

Denise Buthion, Director of The Learning Center

Michael Hall, Maintenance/Custodian

Alfred Walker, Sunday Host

Randall Blair, Sunday Host

Jessica Mayberry, Nursery Attendant

Ashley Edwards, Nursery Attendant

Marita Barkus, Nursery Attendant